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Mayor Dixon Kicks Off Demolition and Revitalization of Lutheran Hospital Site

Baltimore, MD (August 31, 2007) – Mayor Dixon joined leaders from Coppin State University and Coppin Heights for a pre-demolition event at the Lutheran Hospital site on the corner of Ashburton Street and Rayner Avenue.

The City of Baltimore has funded \$1 million of the more than \$3 million project and has aided in the development of a revitalization plan for the Greater Coppin Heights/Rosemont neighborhoods.

"The demolition of the hospital is just one part of the larger picture that I have for Coppin Heights and Rosemont," said Mayor Dixon. "We want to make this an area of the city where the future leaders of Baltimore come to get a first class education, and where families can live safe and healthy lives with everything they need within reach."

Occupying more than seven acres of land, the Lutheran Hospital site has been vacant for nearly 21 years. Coppin State University acquired the site in 2003 to expand academic offerings and meet the needs of a growing university.

In the short term, Coppin State will use the space for much-needed parking and shuttle services. In the long term, the university hopes to use the site for an allied health program, to include cardiopulmonary sciences, health information management, physical therapy and medical technology programs.

The site will also potentially be used for a teachers' training institute where teachers from across the country will come together for seminars, coursework and training to increase the pipeline of available teachers and share best practices.

"Building resources that take into consideration the needs of the entire community- whether it's jobs, education, living or playing- is one of the City's top priorities," said Mayor Dixon.